

Serial No.: 09/587,058

IN THE CLAIMS:

5. A single disc friction clutch for a motor vehicle, comprising:

- a clutch housing;
- a single clutch disc being configured to be mounted on a transmission input shaft having a longitudinal axis;
- said single clutch disc being configured to be axially movable along the longitudinal axis of a transmission input shaft;
- a solid pressure plate having a surface;
- at least one friction lining mounted on said clutch disc; said at least one friction lining being configured to be disposed between said pressure plate and a flywheel;
- said pressure plate being configured and disposed to engage and disengage said clutch disc with a flywheel; said pressure plate being configured and disposed to be axially movable along the longitudinal axis of a transmission input shaft;
- a membrane spring; said membrane spring being disposed between said clutch housing and said pressure plate and having on one axial side a radially extending surface facing said pressure plate;
- said membrane spring being configured and disposed to bias said pressure plate;
- a thermal insulating member supported on said surface of said pressure plate and disposed between said pressure plate and said membrane spring so that the insulating member is only in axial contact with said radially extending surface of said membrane spring;
- said thermal insulating member being configured to minimize the contact between said thermal insulating member and said membrane spring;

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said insulating member being a single, one-piece element and extending circumferentially about said pressure plate and having a first resistance to thermal conductivity and said membrane spring has a second resistance to thermal conductivity, and wherein said first resistance to thermal conductivity is higher than said second resistance;

said thermal insulating member being rigid and comprising a metal;

said metal of said insulating member being configured to minimize heat conduction from said pressure plate to said membrane spring.